

January 2015 Snapshot of Adults in Families

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 17th winter (January 28, 2015) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 730 adults and 88 children were counted, and 84.8% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 7.8% of individuals who indicated that they were accompanied by children.

- 85.4% of adults are females, and 14.6% are males. Most adults in families are single, never married adults (70.8%). 29.2% are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are partnered, separated, widowed, or divorced.
- A majority of persons in families report that they are African-American (79.2%), followed by White (16.7%).
- The average age for adults is 32.6 years.
- 68.1% have just a high school education or GED. 21.3% attended some college, and 6.4% have a college degree.
- 6.5% are veterans.
- 34.9% served some time in jail and/or prison. Out of all individuals surveyed (including those who have not served time in jail and/or prison), 25.6% reported serving time in jail, and 9.3% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison.
- 31.3% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 60.0% had experienced it in the past year.
- 11.4% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 20.0% are currently in recovery.
- 13.6% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 50.0% are currently in recovery.
- 34.1% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 73.3% are currently being treated, and 73.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 16.3% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 28.6% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 57.1% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 42.9% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 40.9% are employed. Of those who are employed, 5.6% do day labor or temporary work, 66.7% work part-time, and 27.8% work full-time.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is 14.5 years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (63.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (15.9%) and Chesterfield (4.5%). 9.1% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 4.5% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults in families have been homeless once (54.2%) or twice (35.4%); 10.5% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (52.3%) have been homeless for two months or less.

For more information:

Margot Ackermann, Ph.D. ♦ Research and Evaluation Director
(804)343-2045 x11 ♦ mackermann@homewardva.org

